

(i) as a byproduct, or a product of a host mineral, or from tailings; or

(ii) through an exploration project with respect to which the presence of a byproduct is a reasonable expectation, based on known mineral companionship, geologic formation, mineralogy, or other factors.

(4) **LEAD AGENCY.**—The term “lead agency” means the agency with primary responsibility for issuing a mineral exploration or mine permit for a project.

(5) **MINERAL EXPLORATION OR MINE PERMIT.**—The term “mineral exploration or mine permit” means—

(A) an authorization of the Bureau of Land Management or the Forest Service, as applicable, for a premining activity that requires analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

(B) a plan of operations issued by the Bureau of Land Management or the Forest Service; and

(C) a permit for a project located in an area for which a hardrock mineral permit or lease is available.

(6) **STATE.**—The term “State” means—

- (A) a State;
- (B) the District of Columbia;
- (C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;
- (D) Guam;
- (E) American Samoa;
- (F) the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and
- (G) the United States Virgin Islands.

(b) **IMPROVING DOMESTIC PERMITTING PROCESSES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and except with agreement of the project sponsor, the total period for all necessary Federal reviews and permit consideration for a critical mineral project on Federal land reasonably expected to produce critical minerals may not exceed—

(A) with respect to a project that requires an environmental assessment under section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)), 18 months; or

(B) with respect to a project that requires an environmental impact statement under that section, 24 months.

(2) **DETERMINATION UNDER NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—To the extent that the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) applies to the issuance of any mineral exploration or mine permit relating to a critical mineral project, the lead agency may deem the requirements of that Act to be satisfied if the lead agency determines that a State or Federal agency acting under State or Federal law has addressed the following factors:

(i) The environmental impact of the action to be conducted under the permit.

(ii) Possible alternatives to issuance of the permit.

(iii) The relationship between long- and short-term uses of the local environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity.

(iv) Any irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources that would be involved in the proposed action.

(B) **PUBLICATION.**—The lead agency shall publish a determination under subparagraph (A) not later than 90 days after receipt of an application for the permit.

(C) **VERIFICATION.**—The lead agency shall publish a determination that the factors under subparagraph (A) have been sufficiently addressed and public participation has occurred with regard to any authorizing actions before issuing any mineral exploration or mine permit for a critical mineral project.

(3) **SCHEDULE FOR PERMITTING PROCESS.**—For any critical mineral project for which the lead agency cannot make the determination described in paragraph (2)(A), at the request of a project sponsor, the lead agency, cooperating agencies, and any other agencies involved with the mineral exploration or mine permitting process shall enter into an agreement with the project sponsor that sets time limits for each part of the permitting process, including—

(A) the decision on whether to prepare an environmental impact statement or similar analysis required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

(B) a determination of the scope of any environmental impact statement or similar analysis required under that Act;

(C) the scope of, and schedule for, the baseline studies required to prepare an environmental impact statement or similar analysis required under that Act;

(D) preparation of any draft environmental impact statement or similar analysis required under that Act;

(E) preparation of a final environmental impact statement or similar analysis required under that Act;

(F) any consultations required under applicable law;

(G) submission and review of any comments required under applicable law;

(H) publication of any public notices required under applicable law; and

(I) any final or interim decisions.

(4) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—In carrying out this subsection, the lead agency shall consider deferring to, and relying on, baseline data, analyses, and reviews performed by State agencies with jurisdiction over the proposed critical mineral project.

(5) **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT.**—The lead agency with respect to a critical mineral project on Federal land, in consultation with any other Federal agency with jurisdiction over the critical mineral project, shall, on request of the project sponsor, a State or local government, an Indian Tribe, or another entity the lead agency determines appropriate, establish a memorandum of agreement with the project sponsor, a State or local government, an Indian Tribe, or another entity the lead agency determines appropriate to carry out the activities described in this subsection.

(6) **ADDRESSING PUBLIC COMMENTS.**—As part of the review process of a critical mineral project under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the lead agency may not address any agency or public comments that were not submitted—

(A) during a public comment period or consultation period provided during the permitting process; or

(B) as otherwise required by law.

SA 2197. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2137 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER (for Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. CASIDY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. TESTER, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. ROMNEY)) to the bill H.R. 3684, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title III of division D, add the following:

SEC. 40324. HA-LEU FOR ADVANCED NUCLEAR REACTORS.

Section 2001 of the Energy Act of 2020 (42 U.S.C. 16281) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (D)—

(I) in clause (v)(III), by adding “or” after the semicolon at the end;

(II) by striking clause (vi); and

(III) by redesignating clause (vii) as clause (vi); and

(ii) in subparagraph (E), by striking “for domestic commercial use” and inserting “to meet the needs of commercial, government, academic, and international entities”; and

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (6) and (7) as paragraphs (8) and (6), respectively, and moving the paragraphs so as to appear in numerical order;

(2) in subsection (b)(2)—

(A) by striking “subsection (a)(1)” each place it appears and inserting “subsection (b)(1)”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)(viii), by striking “subsection (a)(2)(F)” and inserting “subsection (b)(2)(F)”; and

(C) in subparagraph (D)(vi), by striking “subsection (a)(2)(A)” and inserting “subsection (b)(2)(A)”; and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (5) as subparagraphs (A) through (E), respectively, and indenting appropriately; and

(B) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) (as so redesignated)—

(i) by striking “There are” and inserting the following:

“(7) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are”; and

(ii) by striking “in this section” and inserting “under this subsection”; and

(4) in subsection (d)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (6) as paragraphs (2), (3), (5), (6), (7), and (8), respectively;

(B) by inserting before paragraph (2) (as so redesignated) the following:

“(1) **ADVANCED NUCLEAR REACTOR.**—The term ‘advanced nuclear reactor’ has the meaning given the term in section 951(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16271(b)).”; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (3) (as so redesignated) the following:

“(4) **DEPARTMENT.**—The term ‘Department’ means the Department of Energy.”;

(5) by moving paragraph (7) of subsection (c) (as designated by paragraph (3)(B)(i)) so as to appear after paragraph (6) of subsection (a) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)(B));

(6) by striking subsection (c);

(7) by redesignating subsections (a), (b), and (d) as subsections (b), (g), and (a), respectively, and moving the subsections so as to appear in alphabetical order; and

(8) by inserting after subsection (b) (as so redesignated) the following:

“(c) **HA-LEU FOR ADVANCED NUCLEAR REACTOR DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.**—

“(1) **ACTIVITIES.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the Secretary shall initiate activities to make available HA-LEU, produced from inventories owned by the Department, for use by advanced nuclear reactors, with priority given to the awards made pursuant to the funding opportunity announcement of the Department numbered DE-FOA-0002271 for Pathway 1, Advanced Reactor Demonstrations, with additional HA-LEU to be made available to members of the consortium established under subsection (b)(2)(F), as available.

“(2) **OWNERSHIP.**—HA-LEU made available under this subsection—

“(A) shall remain the property of, and title shall remain with, the Department; and

“(B) shall not be subject to the requirements of section 3112(d)(2) and 3113 of the

USEC Privatization Act (42 U.S.C. 2297h-10(d)(2), 2297h-11).

“(3) QUANTITY.—In carrying out activities under this subsection, the Secretary, to the maximum extent practicable, shall make available—

“(A) by September 30, 2024, not less than 3 metric tons of HA-LEU; and

“(B) by December 31, 2025, not less than an additional 15 metric tons of HA-LEU.

“(4) FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION.—In carrying out activities under this subsection, the Secretary shall take into consideration—

“(A) options for providing HA-LEU from a stockpile of uranium owned by the Department (including the National Nuclear Security Administration), including—

“(i) fuel that—

“(I) directly meets the needs of the end-users described in paragraph (1); but

“(II) has been previously used or fabricated for another purpose;

“(ii) fuel that can meet the needs of the end-users described in paragraph (1) after removing radioactive or other contaminants that resulted from a previous use or fabrication of the fuel for research, development, demonstration, or deployment activities of the Department (including activities of the National Nuclear Security Administration);

“(iii) fuel from a high-enriched uranium stockpile, which can be blended with lower assay uranium to become HA-LEU to meet the needs of the end-users described in paragraph (1); and

“(iv) fuel from uranium stockpiles intended for other purposes, but for which material could be swapped or replaced in time in such a manner that would not negatively impact the missions of the Department;

“(B) options for providing HA-LEU from domestically enriched HA-LEU procured by the Department through a competitive process pursuant to the HA-LEU Bank established under subsection (d)(3)(C); and

“(C) options to replenish, as needed, Department stockpiles of uranium made available pursuant to subparagraph (A) with domestically enriched HA-LEU procured by the Department through a competitive process pursuant to the HA-LEU Bank established under subsection (d)(3)(C).

“(5) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall not barter or otherwise sell or transfer uranium in any form in exchange for services relating to—

“(A) the final disposition of radioactive waste from uranium that is the subject of a contract for sale, resale, transfer, or lease under this subsection; or

“(B) environmental cleanup activities.

“(6) APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts otherwise made available, there is appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this subsection, out of any amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$200,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

“(7) SUNSET.—The authority of the Secretary to carry out activities under this subsection shall terminate on the earlier of—

“(A) September 30, 2027; and

“(B) the date on which the HA-LEU needs of the end-users described in paragraph (1) can be fully met by commercial enrichers in the United States.

“(d) COMMERCIAL HA-LEU AVAILABILITY.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the Secretary shall establish a program (referred to in this subsection as the ‘program’) to accelerate the availability of commercially produced HA-LEU in the United States in accordance with this subsection.

“(2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the program are—

“(A) to provide for the availability of HA-LEU enriched, deconverted, and fabricated in the United States;

“(B) to address nuclear supply chain issues in the United States; and

“(C) to support strategic nuclear fuel cycle capabilities in the United States.

“(3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out the program, the Secretary shall consider and, as appropriate, execute—

“(A) options to establish, through a competitive process, a commercial HA-LEU production capability of not less than 20 metric tons of HA-LEU per year by—

“(i) December 31, 2026; or

“(ii) the earliest operationally feasible date thereafter;

“(B) options that provide for an array of HA-LEU—

“(i) enrichment levels;

“(ii) output levels to meet demand; and

“(iii) fuel forms; and

“(C) options to establish, through a competitive process, a HA-LEU Bank—

“(i) to replenish Department stockpiles of material used in carrying out activities under subsection (c); and

“(ii) after replenishing those stockpiles, to make HA-LEU available to members of the consortium established under subsection (b)(2)(F).

“(4) APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts otherwise made available, there is appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this subsection, out of any amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$150,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2031.

“(e) COST RECOVERY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out activities under subsections (c) and (d), the Secretary shall ensure that any HA-LEU acquired, provided, or made available under those subsections for members of the consortium established under subsection (b)(2)(F) is subject to cost recovery in accordance with subsection (b)(2)(G).

“(2) AVAILABILITY OF CERTAIN FUNDS.—Notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, United States Code, revenues received from the sale or transfer of fuel feed material and other activities related to making HA-LEU available pursuant to this section—

“(A) shall be available to the Department for carrying out the purposes of this section, to reduce the need for further appropriations for those purposes; and

“(B) shall remain available until expended.

“(f) EXCLUSION.—In carrying out activities under this section, the Secretary shall not make available, or provide funding for, uranium that is recovered, downblended, converted, or enriched by an entity that—

“(1) is owned or controlled by the Government of the Russian Federation or the Government of the People’s Republic of China; or

“(2) is organized under the laws of, or otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of, the Russian Federation or the People’s Republic of China.”.

SA 2198. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2137 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER (for Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. CASIDY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. TESTER, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. ROMNEY)) to the bill H.R. 3684, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title III of division D, add the following:

SEC. 4032A. NATIONAL STRATEGIC URANIUM RESERVE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) URANIUM RESERVE.—The term “Uranium Reserve” means the uranium reserve operated pursuant to the program established under subsection (b).

(2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Energy, acting through the Under Secretary for Science and Energy.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a program to operate a uranium reserve comprised of uranium recovered in the United States in accordance with this section.

(c) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Uranium Reserve are—

(1) to address domestic nuclear supply chain issues;

(2) to provide assurance of the availability of uranium recovered in the United States in the event of a supply disruption; and

(3) to support strategic nuclear fuel cycle capabilities in the United States.

(d) EXCLUSION.—The Secretary shall exclude from the Uranium Reserve uranium that is recovered in the United States by an entity that—

(1) is owned or controlled by the Government of the Russian Federation or the Government of the People’s Republic of China; or

(2) is organized under the laws of, or otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of, the Russian Federation or the People’s Republic of China.

(e) APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts otherwise made available, there is appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section, out of any amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$150,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2031.

SA 2199. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2137 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER (for Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. CASIDY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. TESTER, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. ROMNEY)) to the bill H.R. 3684, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 40106 of title I of division D.

SA 2200. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2137 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER (for Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. CASIDY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. TESTER, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. ROMNEY)) to the bill H.R. 3684, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 40106(j) of title I of division D, add at the end the following:

(9) GENERATION SUBSIDY PROHIBITED.—In administering the program, the Secretary shall ensure, through the issuance of rules and the adoption of practices and by other means, and shall certify in connection with any financial commitment under the program, that the benefits of the program, including any savings in transmission costs, to